Phasing in the Use of Nonlead Ammunition

Wildlife Resources Committee Meeting July 28, 2014



DFW starting point proposal

2015 - Nonlead would be required for:

- Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves
- Bighorn sheep

Reasoning:

- WA and ER = 925,000 ac, high densities of hunters, other ecological values
- Sheep hunting = small group of hunters



DFW starting point proposal

2016 - Nonlead would be required for:

- Larger (most) game birds, including turkeys (waterfowl size shot)
- Small game mammals (by shotgun)
- Non-game, depredation and furbearers (by shotgun)

Reasoning:

 Nonlead shot (waterfowl size) readily available for larger game birds, small mammals, nongame and furbearers



DFW starting point proposal

2019 - Nonlead would be required for the take of all wildlife:

- All big game
- All remaining game birds
- Small game mammals (by rifle/handgun)
- Non-game, depredation and furbearers (by rifle/handgun)
- Muzzle loaders

Reasoning:

- Uncertainty about field testing equipment (LED)
- Uncertainty about availability/market response



Outreach to date:

- 1. January 11 International Sportsmen's Expo
- 2. January 15 WRC Meeting, Van Nuys
- 3. March 1 Natl. Wild Turkey Fed., Vacaville
- 4. March 18 Director's Hunting Advisory Committee, Sacramento
- 5. March 28-29 Fred Hall Show, Del Mar
- 6. April 15 Public Workshop, Ventura
- 7. June 3 Public Workshop, Eureka
- 8. July 19 DU Meeting, Corning
- 9. July 19 Public Workshop, Redding
- 10. July 28 WRC Meeting, Sacramento



Scheduled meetings:

- 1. July 29 Public Workshop, Rancho Cordova
- 2. August 5 Public Workshop, San Diego
- 3. August 12 Public Workshop, Fresno
- 4. August 19 Public Workshop, Rancho Cucamonga
- 5. Sept. 17 Regulation recommendation at WRC meeting in Sacramento



Comments received to date

Specific comments on phasing:

- 1. Defer nonlead on public lands to 2016 or 2019
- 2. Delay the ban for licensed game bird clubs
- 3. Require full implementation in 2015
- 4. Complete phase-in of nonlead by 2016
- 5. A longer phase-in period would be more fair



Comments received (cont.)

- 6. Postpone implementation until manufacturers can develop available and affordable substitutes
- 7. ATF armor piercing ban will stifle development and production of nonlead ammunition
- 8. Allow an exception for older firearms
- 8. Allow muzzleloaders to continue to use lead
- 9. Post list of comments on DFW web page



Comments received (cont.)

General transition to nonlead:

- 1. Help hunters learn about availability of nonlead ammo
- 2. Nonlead shooting clinics needed
- 3. Are nonlead shotgun slugs available for deer on Wildlife Areas?
- 4. Is there nonlead for .177 caliber?
- 5. Nonlead ammo for rimfire cartridges not available
- 6. Will there be a lead buy-back program?
- 7. How will license sales be impacted?



Comments received (cont.)

- 8. Are there lead-free alloys for people who cast their own bullets?
- 9. New choke tubes needed for nonlead turkey and upland game loads
- 10. Would nonlead ammunition be required for handguns used for personal protection?
- 11. How will hand loads be certified?
- 12.DFW officers need non-destructive testing methods for projectiles



Written and emailed comments

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or

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attn: Non-lead implementation

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Questions and comments?

